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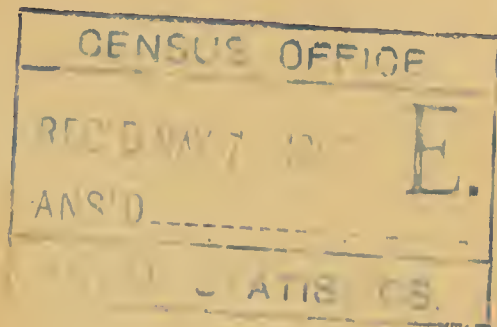
THE IOWA
Soldiers' Orphans' Home
DAVENPORT.

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1899.

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INST. PRESS,
Glenwood, Iowa.

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BOARD OF CONTROL.

WILLIAM LARRABEE, Chairman.

CLERMONT.

J. G. KINNE,

DES MOINES.

JOHN COWNIE,

SOUTH AMANA.

L. A. WILKINSON, Secretary.

DES MOINES.

.....—O—.....

OFFICERS.

.....—O—.....

M. T. GASS, Superintendent.

H. E. POWNELL, Steward.

WILLIAM L. ALLEN, Physician.

HOW TO PROCEED TO SECURE THE ADMISSION OF A CHILD.

Children whose parents are so situated or, of such a character as to be unable to properly care for them, or unfit to afford them suitable homes and training, are received into the Home.

When it is desired to place children in the Home, write the Superintendent, stating whether the father of such children is a soldier or not. The Superintendent will then furnish the necessary blanks upon which to make application.

If the application is for a soldier's children, it must be signed by parent or guardian, and certified to before a Notary Public by some responsible person knowing the statements in the application to be true. Such children come in as wards, and at the expense of the State.

If the application is for one not the child of a soldier, it must be made either by the Board of Supervisors or the Judge of the District Court of the County in which the child resides. Either the Board or Judge have coordinate authority in petitioning for the admission of children to the Home. (See laws on back of application blank.) Such children are admitted as wards, and at the expense of the Counties from which they are sent.

Answer all the questions upon the application blanks as fully as possible, having it properly signed and certified to, and then return it to the Superintendent.

It will be placed before the Board of Control for consideration. You will be notified immediately thereafter, and if approved the child can be admitted without further delay.

The same authority upon which a child is admitted is the authority to apply for its dismissal from the Home.

Children remain in the Home until the parties sending them here make arrangements for dismissal, either to their friends, or authorize the Home authorities to place them in private families.

There is no difficulty in procuring most excellent homes for all the children authorized placed out, and without any expense to their friends or the County.

Only children healthy in body and mind will be admitted.

Children are received into the Home to remain for no less time than one year. They are admitted no younger than one year of age, and are not kept beyond the age of sixteen. Therefore children cannot be admitted who are older than fifteen.

M. T. GASS, Superintendent.



ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND DINING HALL

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME.

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HISTORY.

At the outbreak of the Rebellion in 1861 the State of Iowa was settled chiefly by young men of limited means, maintaining their families to a great extent by agricultural pursuits. When the call came for volunteers it was answered patriotically and cheerfully, large numbers coming to the front in the defence of their country and homes.

During the war many of these home-makers were killed, leaving their families destitute and unprotected.

Some of the benevolent people of Davenport, among them Hon. Hiram Price, Hon. John L. Davies, Mrs. Patience V. Newcomb, and many others, conceived the plan of founding a home for the orphaned children of Iowa soldiers, to be supported by the charity of Iowa people, assisted by the comrades of the fallen heroes. A similar enterprise was undertaken at Farmington, Glenwood, and Cedar Falls. The Davenport Home was first organized December 1, 1863, as a private charitable institution, and was opened for the reception of children seven months later. The old barracks, known as Camp Roberts, standing upon government grounds formerly used as a recruiting station, were utilized as a "home." In November, 1865 the Farmington home moved its children to Davenport, and the following January a law was passed, donating the land, buildings, and other property to the association for a soldiers' orphans home.

In June, 1866, it became a State institution, under the name of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home, and the property was entrusted to a board of trustees appointed by the Legislature.

In 1875-6 the Glenwood and Cedar Falls branches joined the main institution and transferred their children to Davenport.

The spring of the latter year marked an important change, when the Sixteenth General Assembly amended the law regulating the admission of children, and made any dependent child of the State, mentally and physically sound, eligible to the institution upon the same conditions as soldiers' orphans. The name was changed to The Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home and Home for Indigent Children.

The property now consisted of thirty-three acres of land, and several wooden buildings which had been used as barracks for soldiers. Since then, twenty-four acres of land have been added to the farm; the old wooden buildings have been replaced by modern brick structures, and new ones added as needed.

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LOCATION

The Home is situated in the suburban part of the city of Davenport, about two miles north-east of the post-office. The location is one of the most beautiful and healthful in the vicinity; the grounds, made attractive by shade trees, flowers, and shrubbery, afford ample opportunity for exercise and recreation.

The institution now consists of eighteen well equipped cottages, accommodating from twenty-five to thirty-five children each, a school-house with seating capacity for five hundred children, a large two-story hospital, a laundry and engine-house, manual training buildings, and a barn with a storage capacity for one hundred tons of hay, and stable-room for twenty-five cows and six horses, leaving space for carriages, vehicles, and farm implements.

The buildings are located upon a hill in about the center of the farm, arranged in the shape of a capital letter E, facing the east. In their construction and arrangement the health of the children has been considered of the greatest importance, and everything possible has been done to give an abundance of light, sunshine, fresh air, and pure water. They are heated by steam and lighted by electricity.

The main or executive building contains offices, reception-rooms, a kitchen, a library a store-room, dining-rooms, pantries, a bakery, and living rooms for the superintendent, teachers and employees. The children's dining room, with a capacity for seating over five hundred children, is in this building. The officers and employees number about sixty persons: the average enrollment of children in the home is four hundred and fifty at present.

* * * *

SCHOOL.

This institution has the only regularly graded school connected with a State institution in Iowa. All children in health attend regularly; and the advancement is fully as marked as in the average public school. In general, the children may be said to do better work, for their attendance is more regular and there is less in the way of outside interest to divert their attention from their studies. The school year consists of ten months of graded work. The regular grammar school curriculum is adopted, beginning with the kindergarten and closing with the ninth grade work. In addition to their studies the girls have industrial and domestic instruction each day; and the boys are to have manual training advantages. The children are qualified, upon graduation, to enter any high school in the State, and are admitted without further examination.

The kindergarten numbers from forty to sixty children between the ages of two and four years.

A resident music teacher is employed in the school and the children are taught the rudiments and principles of music and to sing and read by note, and no school can show a better general proficiency in this line of instruction, or a more hearty, ready, and almost unanimous response to efforts for training in vocal music than in the Home.

† † † †

INDUSTRIAL TRAINING.

Two industrial buildings have been completed and equipped in several departments of work, and are now in full operation. The older girls and boys receive manual training in addition to school work. We have a tailor shop and dress-making department, in charge of competent instructors, where the girls are taught various kinds of sewing each day, and a domestic department in which they are instructed in the various household duties. A regular class in cooking is always carried on, the girls doing all the work necessary to preparing, cooking, and serving the meals to those designated to dine in their department from time to time. They thus acquire a practical as well as a theoretical knowledge. They also receive instruction and training in washing and ironing.

The boys are taught cabinet-making, carpentry, and painting. Several are also instructed in our bakery, and a considerable number are constantly employed on the farm and in the care of stock. Some acquire a good degree of skill in their various occupations, and all cultivate habits of industry.



BOYS' COTTAGES AND PLAYGROUNDS.

HOSPITAL.

* * * * *

The health of all children in the institution is in charge of the Home physician and a resident trained nurse. The hospital is fully equipped with a dispensary. Bath-rooms with hot and cold water are provided for all the children, and personal cleanliness, good habits, and careful attention to hygienic laws is required. An abundance of good, wholesome, nourishing food, and a reasonable amount of luxuries, with fruits in their seasons, are provided.

All injurious excesses are avoided, and a certain amount of recreation is allowed each child every day.

The health of the institution is so uniformly good that no solicitude need be felt in this direction. In case, however, children are seriously ill, friends are immediately notified, and for this purpose parents and guardians are requested to inform the Superintendent at once of any change in their post-office address.

The ordinary rates of mortality are from fifteen to twenty per thousand annually, and upon this ratio from seven to ten deaths would be expected amongst the five hundred children we have in the Home; but the remarkable fact is that the deaths average less than one per year, and this has been the record for the past eight years.

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GOVERNMENT AND CARE OF CHILDREN.

The future usefulness of children depends largely upon the development of good, strong, healthy bodies and minds. The children are furnished with suitable, well-made, and comfortable clothing, carefully adapted to the seasons of the year. Personal cleanliness and orderly methods are insisted upon, and the Home in all departments is a model of neatness. The management is deeply impressed with the seriousness of its obligations as regards the moral, mental, and physical training of children and the high standard of propriety and good conduct apparent among the children, the strong, robust bodies of the large majority of the inmates, and the success attained by many of the graduates of the institution, attest the wisdom of the methods now in practice.

Each cottage is in charge of a competent person, carefully selected with a view to her fitness and ability as a moral director of the family under her care. No persons are employed or allowed upon the grounds who are not of good moral character and correct habits. Courteous manners, pure morals, and habits of industry are constantly encouraged in the children.

Corporal punishment is not permitted until all other means have failed and then all cases must be reported to the Superintendent with full explanation of the reasons therefor.

What is earnestly sought for is not so much the control of the children as that they should learn to control themselves; not so much a fear of authority as respect for it and a habit of right-doing. The child is the best governed when he governs himself.

INFORMATION REGARDING ADMISSION OF CHILDREN.

The price of admission is dependence for support.

Only children between the ages of one and fifteen will be admitted.

All soldiers' children will be admitted as soldiers' orphans upon application signed by parent or guardians, showing conclusively that the father was a soldier in the War of the Rebellion, or Spanish War, and giving the date and place of his enlistment, his regiment and company' and the date and place of his honorable discharge. All such applications must be certified to before a notary public by some responsible person knowing the facts stated in the application.

Any indigent child whose parents are legal residents of the State of Iowa, is eligible to the Home. Application for admission of indigent children must be made by the Board of Supervisors of the County wherein the children reside, by any Court of Record, or by any Judge thereof. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Chapter 94 of the Laws of the Sixteenth General Assembly, read as follows:

SECTION 1. That the Board of Trustees of the Soldiers' Orphans' Home may receive into the care and privileges of said Home at Davenport, such destitute children as should, in their judgement, properly be admitted into said institution.

SEC. 2. That all applications for the admission of such children shall be made through the Board of Supervisors of the County wherein the person or persons to be admitted reside.

SEC. 3. That all persons admitted to the said Home under the provisions of this act shall, from and after the date of their reception, be subject to all the rules and regulations therein in force; and the trustees of said Home shall have all the control over, and all the powers and rights of disposal of said children as are now or may be by law given them in respect to orphans of soldiers.

SEC. 4. That the propriety of admitting any child under the provisions of this act into the said Home shall be determined by the trustees of said institution. They may refuse to admit any child who, from any cause, is deemed to be inadmissible.

SEC. 5. The payment to the said Home, for the support and maintenance of children admitted as herein provided and expenses of transmission of children to said Home, shall be made by the state auditor, at the same time and in the same manner as is now or may be provided by law for the maintenance of soldiers' orphans.

SEC. 6. The Board of Supervisors of the county from which such children are received into said Home shall make provision for the payment, from any funds of the county not otherwise appropriated, for the amounts due monthly for the support of said children, and expenses of their transmission to said Home, which amount shall be paid to the State Auditor at the same time that State taxes are paid.

Chapter 111 of the laws of the Twenty-first General Assembly, reads as follows:

SECTION 1. That Section two (2), of chapter ninety-four (94), of the Acts of the Sixteenth General Assembly be, and the same is hereby repealed, and the following is enacted in lieu thereof:

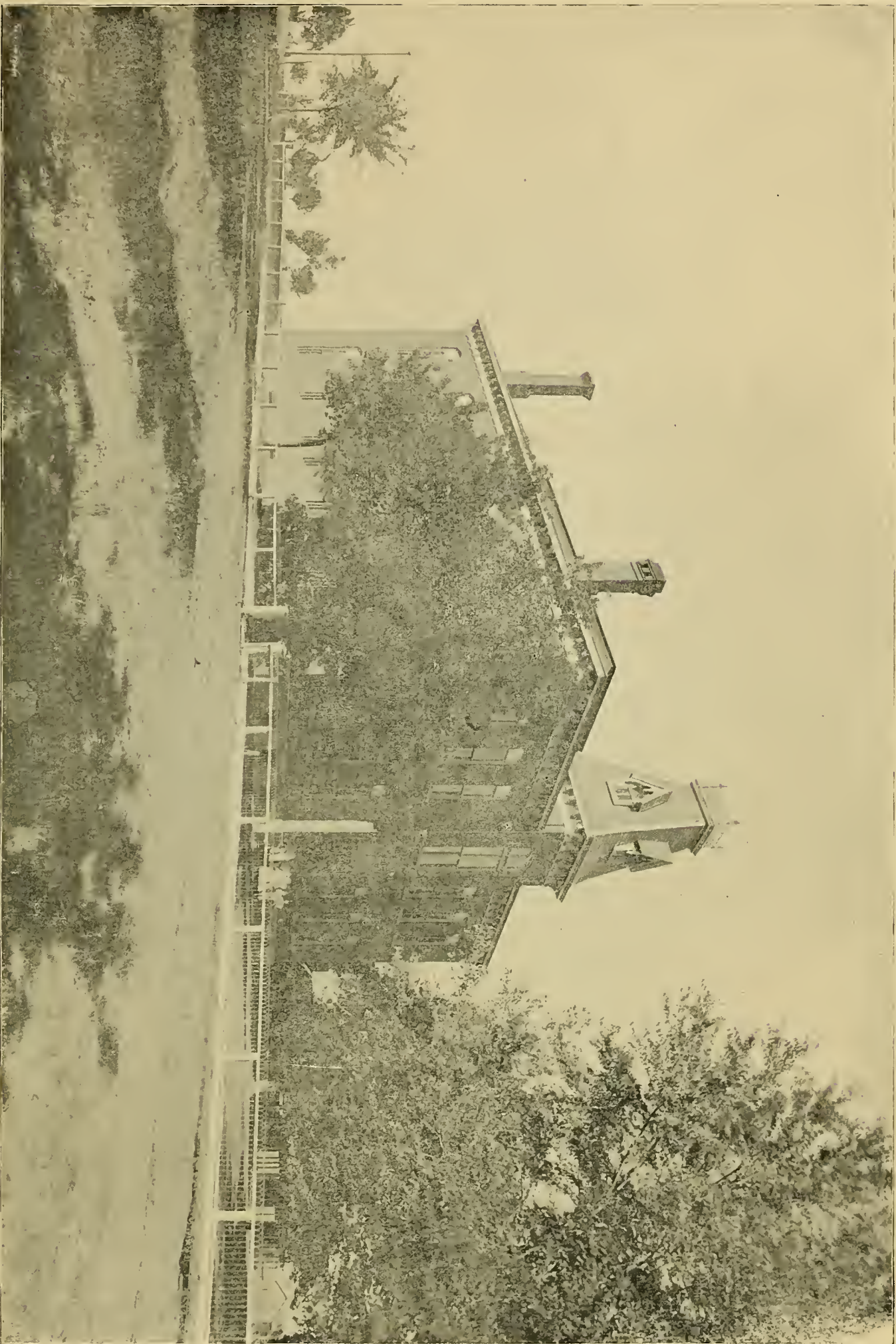
SEC. 2. Application for the admission of such children may be made to any court of record, or to any judge thereof, or to the Board of Supervisors of the county wherein the children to be admitted reside.

All applications of either sort must be approved by the Board of Control, and children when admitted must remain at least one year.

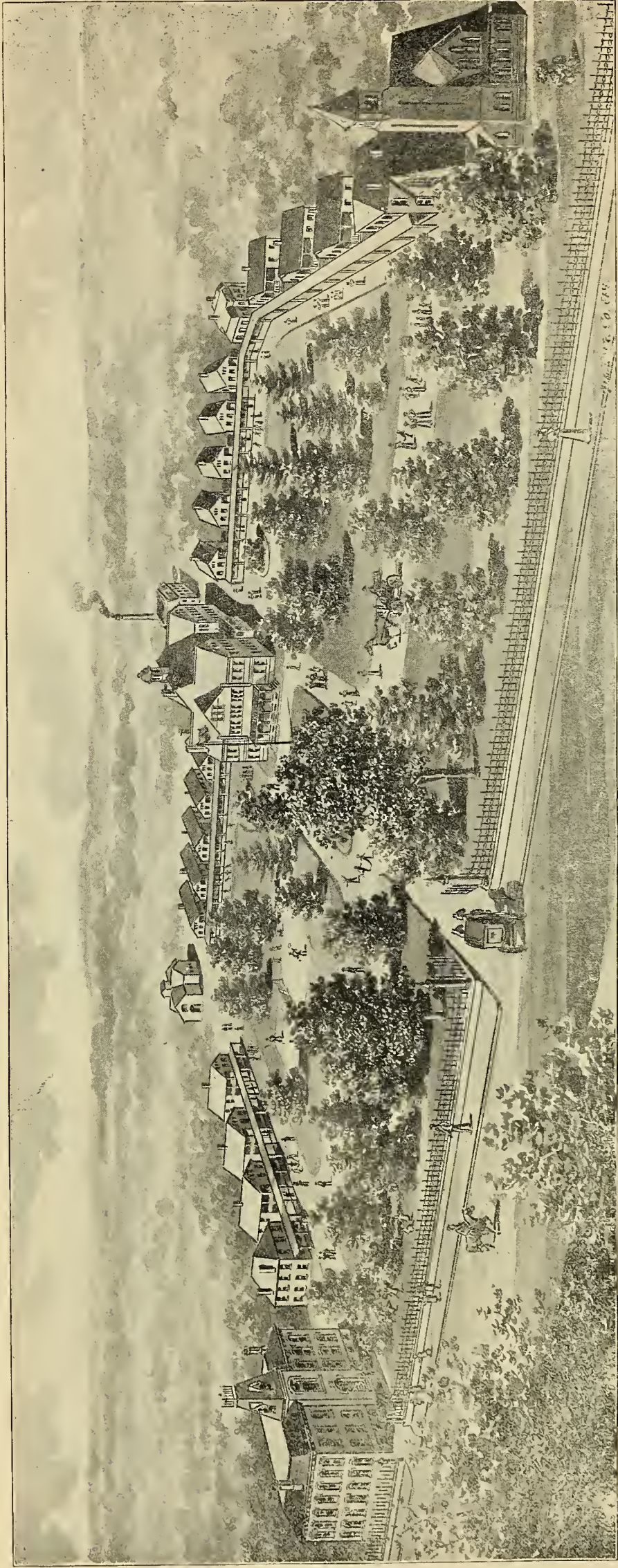
Blank forms of application for admission will be sent by the Superintendent whenever desired.

No child mentally or physically disqualified for attending the public schools of the State will be received.

The children received may remain until sixteen years of age unless sooner dismissed. All children in the Home must have a guardian. The Board of Supervisors will be recognized as guardians whenever it is so desired.



THE SCHOOL BUILDING.



GENERAL VIEW OF GROUNDS AND BUILDINGS.

A state law provides that the expenses of soldiers' orphans to the institution are paid by the institution.

All letters concerning business with the institution, and all letters relative to the health, welfare, or conduct of the children should be addressed to the Superintendent.

Homes will be found for children at any time after they have been in the institution one year, at the request of parents or guardians.

NOTE.—The attention of Boards of Supervisors of Counties in Iowa is called to the fact that the Board of Control has no authority to place children in their care in homes outside of the institution. Many applications for children are received by them from some of the best homes in the State, and if the authority were given them, many of the children could be placed in good homes, either by indenture or adoption, where the children would be cared for until they were old enough to care for themselves, and the counties would be relieved of their support.

If the Supervisors sending children to the Home will obtain the written consent of the parents or guardians of such children and forward the same to the Superintendent they will find it to the interest of their counties.

FORM OF APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION.*

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE IOWA SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' HOME AND HOME FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN, Davenport, Iowa.

Gentlemen—We, the Supervisors of....County, State of Iowa, do hereby ask admission to your institution for....child of....in accordance with Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Chapter 94, of the laws of the Sixteenth General Assembly.

SUPERVISORS OF....COUNTY, IOWA.

Signed this....day of....189..

If Petition is made by County Supervisors use above blank.

STATE OF IOWA,....COUNTY, { ss.

I,....one of the judges of the....Judicial District of the State of Iowa, do hereby ask admission to your institution for....child of....in accordance with Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, Chapter 94, of the laws of the Sixteenth General Assembly, and Chapter III, Section 2, laws of the Twenty-Fifth General Assembly.

Signed this....day of....189..

.....JUDGE.

If Petition is made by Judge, use this blank.

Children will not be admitted to this Institution younger than one year old. No child is admitted for less time than one year. Boys may remain at the home till 15 years of age; girls till 16. Children will be admitted to this Institution at any time after the papers asking their admission have been approved by the Trustees of the Home. All children, when admitted to this institution, should have a guardian if parent is not living. The Board of Supervisors will be recognized as guardians whenever it is so desired. The Board of Trustees request answers to the following questions:

1. Is the mother living?....Address....
2. Is the father living?....Address....
3. Give name and P. O. address of guardian....
4. When was said child born?....
5. Where was said child born?....
6. What is the nationality of said child?....
7. How long has said child resided in Iowa?....
8. Is said child healthy, and of sound mind?....
9. Give a brief history of the habits and character of the child....
10. Give a brief history, if possible, of the character and circumstances of the parents of said child....
11. Are Trustees of the Institution authorised to place the child in a good home at the end of one year....

The above application for the admission of....from....County, State of Iowa, is hereby approved this....day of....189..

BOARD OF CONTROL.

*Application for soldiers' orphans differs slightly from above.

LIFE IN THE INSTITUTION.

It must not be supposed that the children lead a cold, cheerless life, by any means, as every effort is put forth to furnish them with all proper kinds of childhood amusements. The warm love and almost parental affection which exists between the cottage matron and her little group of children is observed by all visitors and officers, and clearly indicates that cheerfulness and contentment reign in these eighteen happy little homes. One feels convinced that the graduates of the Iowa Soldiers' Orphans' Home will not look back to the years spent in that institution with any other than the most pleasant recollections.

The Home is strictly undenominational, but distinctly and positively Christian in its influences, discipline, and instruction. Daily worship is held in the cottages, and a regular Sunday-school is held every Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, following which is a short sermon from the different ministers in town.

The children assemble for all of their meals in the large dining-room in the executive building. They are liberally supplied with everything in the line of recreation and amusements. Balls, bats,, foot-balls, swings, tilting-boards, croquet, and other customary playthings incidental to childhood are furnished and a daily playtime is allowed each child.

A carefully selected library of books adapted to the use and instruction of children, is always accessible to them.

A uniformed military company of sixty of the larger boys, from ten to fourteen years of age, has been organized with great success. Its advantages are daily more highly appreciated as its fruits become better known. The drill gives the children valuable information and moderate and regular exercise; it inculcates habits of attention, promptness, obedience, respect for law and constituted authority and has an admirable influence on the health, bearing and habits of the children.

In connection with the organization, the boys have court-martial for disciplining members for minor offences, and a uniformed drum corps to furnish music. The fifes and drums were gifts from enthusiastic friends in Davenport.

All holidays are observed here as elsewhere, and in as nearly the same manner as is possible.

Occasional short visits of parents and near friends are allowed and desired, at which times the fullest possible information concerning the home life, the work of the school and the conduct and prospects of the children are gladly given. Owing to the large number of relatives and friends interested in the children, it has been found necessary to limit the visits to one day and one night, and they should not be made upon Sunday.

Visitors are also requested not to make such visits upon holidays, as the extra preparation entailed in the celebration of these days necessarily creates confusion, extra work and inconvenience.

Allowing children to visit their homes is against the policy of the management and is objected to for the reason it has a tendency to make them discontented upon their return and also causes discontent among others who have no friends to visit. The liability of children's (on their return from such visits) bringing contagious diseases to which the entire family of children in the Home is exposed, is another very serious objection.

Children are furnished stationery and postage by the Home, and are required to write to their relatives or guardians once in two weeks. Parents or friends of children may write to them as often as they wish. It is expected, however, that these letters shall be of a character to encourage and make them happy.



CHILDREN ON THE PLAYGROUNDS.

DISPOSITION OF CHILDREN.

The Home has been in operation over thirty-five years: during this time more than four thousand five hundred children have been admitted. They have come from homes desolated by the fatalities of war, from homes of broken down old soldiers, from the unfortunate but worthy poor families, and from homes of crime; some coming in a most wretched condition, both morally and physically. The discipline to which all of the children have been subjected and the course of training, has been in the hands of trusted and conscientious workers, and is such as would eliminate the vicious traits of character and prepare them for good citizenship.

Children of this state should never suffer the stigma of having been inmates of a poor-house, nor should they ever under twelve years of age, or without the commission of a crime, be committed to a reformatory as many are for no other reason than that they are destitute. Several states have laws against this, with a penalty attached for the violation of the same. In such places children are liable to the most pernicious influences and surroundings, oftentimes having for associates imbeciles, lunatics and persons of most vicious and demoralizing traits of character. Their minds become so impregnated with the vice and wickedness about them that it takes years (if it is ever possible) to eradicate the evil effects.

New York and California support their dependent children in sectarian asylums. Most of the states, however, have institutions similar to this one, many of them upon a larger scale.

Few of the children remain the full time allowed them in the Home. But a year or two of the wholesome training received in the Home renders them much more attractive and enables the management to find much better homes for them. More than four thousand children have entered the state, armed with a good education, good physical condition, and habits of sobriety and industry.

The boys are found among the best men in Iowa, in the different professions and places of trust and responsibility.

The girls have contributed an equal share in making the past record of the Home as creditable as the future promises to be.

The constant good reports coming in from the wards of the state who have gone out from this home would convince the most skeptical observer that the state's taking care of its dependent children is no longer a theory, but a thoroughly proven fact, and a system which is robbing the reformatories, poor-houses and penitentiaries of their inmates; and that such institutions are both practical and profitable in elevating these children from crime, degradation and surroundings and influences not conducive to sober, industrious citizenship, to a position of self-respect and self-support, which in many instances has not been traceable in their families for generations.

This is an institution with whose work the management would be very glad to have the public become more familiar. It has to do with a bright, promising class of children in whom, if they are brought under right influences and properly trained, there is every hope of making good and useful citizens.

To this end, the state is doing a noble work for the class of children assembled in the Home and we feel that its great benefits might, and would be much further extended, and greater good accomplished, if the nature and scope of its work were better understood.

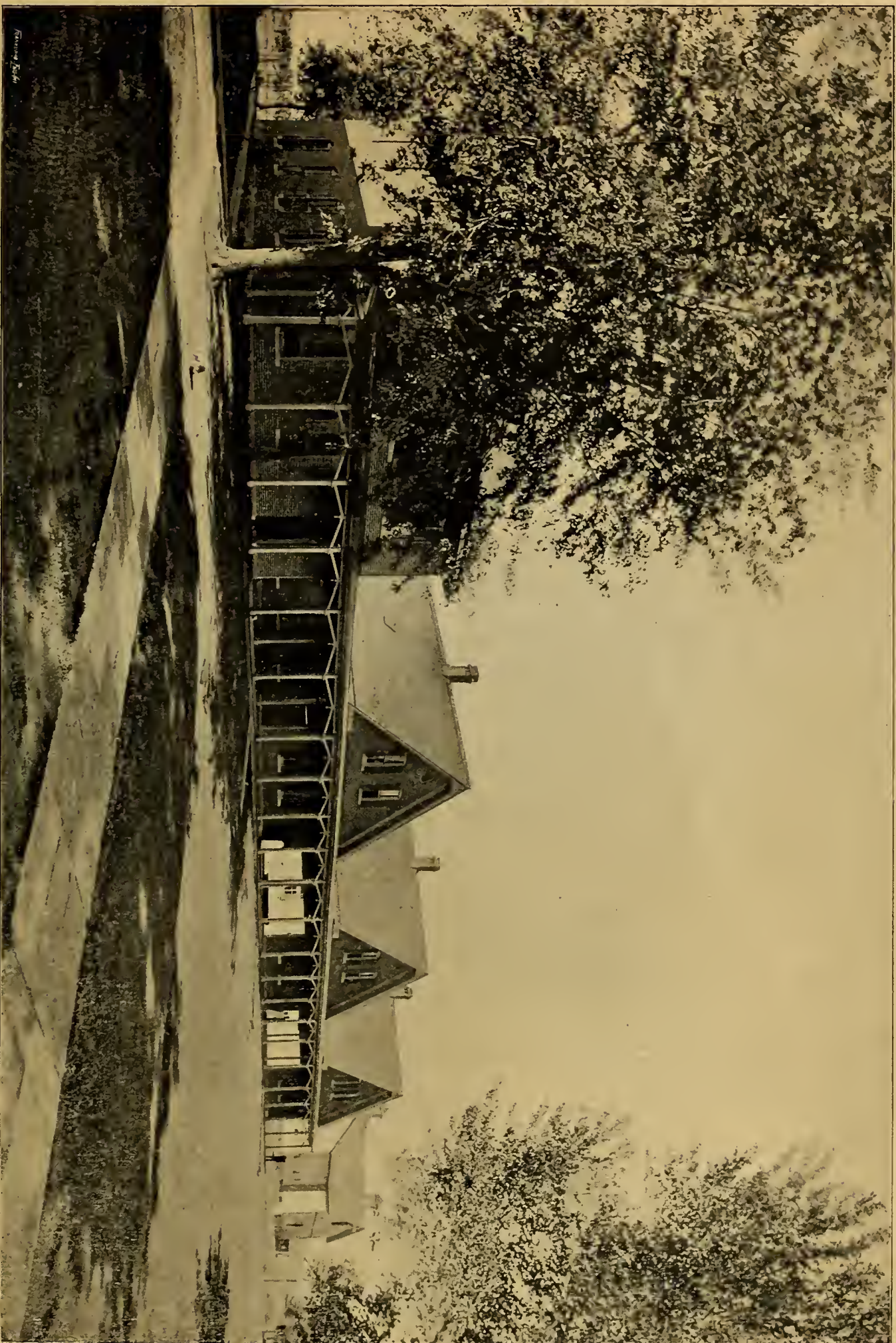
The work of child saving is one in which philanthropists are becoming more and more interested and to which every year the attention of the charitable public is more earnestly drawn. This is the one institution in all of the state whose work is especially directed to this end. Its doors are ever open to the public for investigation as to its methods and nature of the work done here; with a feeling on the part of the management that the Home needs only to be better known to be better appreciated. Information will be gladly and freely furnished to any one who desires a better knowledge of the Home.



WE ARE HAVING OUR PICTURES TAKEN.

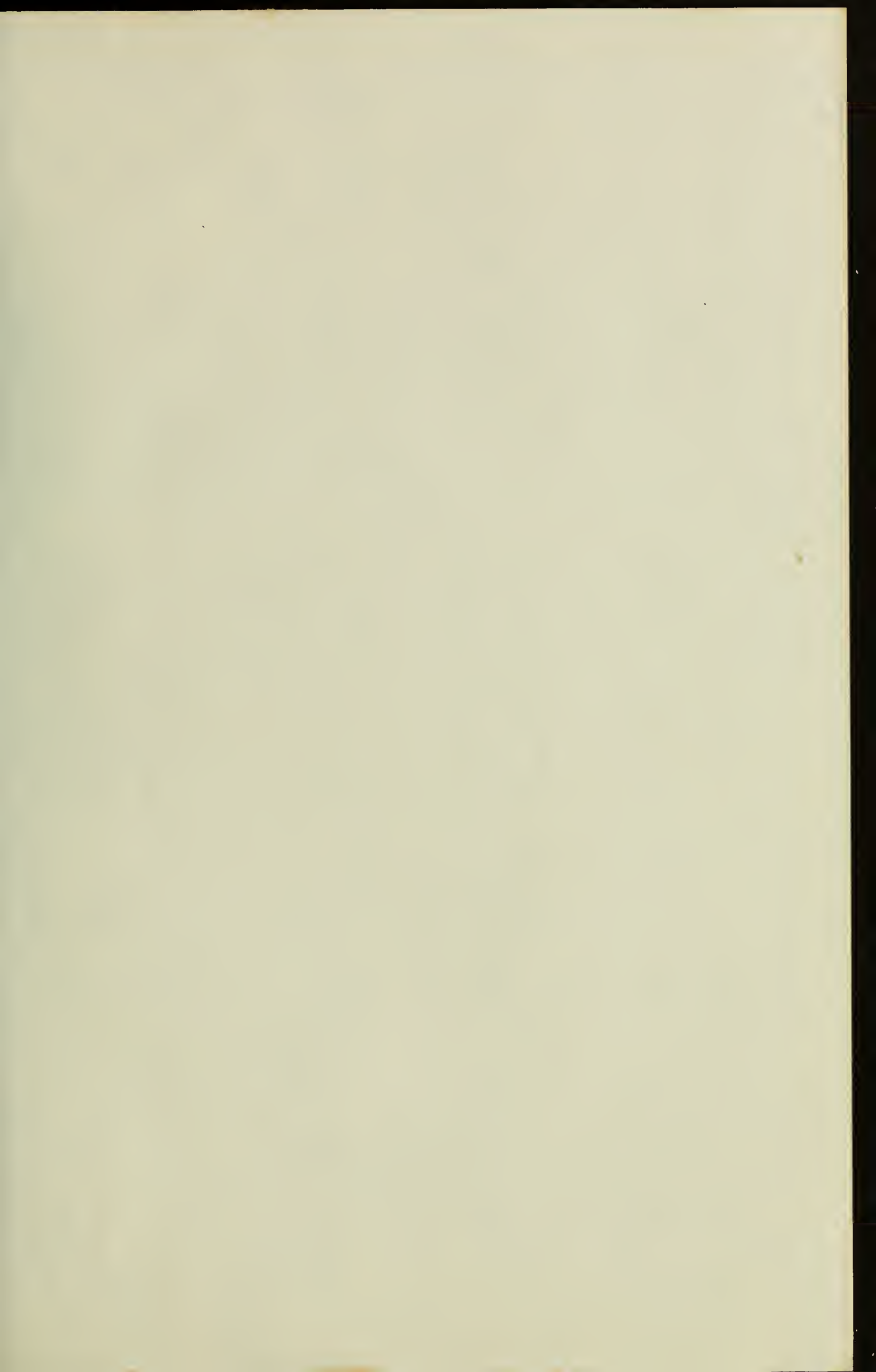


MILITARY COMPANY OF BOYS FROM 10 TO 14 YEARS OF AGE.



GIRLS' COTTAGES, WITH STABLES IN THE DISTANCE.

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